Opera Production offers rare opportunity

Students in Pittsburg State University's 1992 production of Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land* were afforded a rare opportunity at the opera's second performance on February 23. It all began with a telephone call to Prof. Paul Huybrechts, director, several days before the event.

A woman called to inquire about availability of tickets, performance times, etc. She indicated that she just happened to be in town to visit her daughter that week and would really like to attend one of the performances. Everything seemed quite routine, until she explained why she's always had a very special interest in this particular work: her name was Rosemary Carlos, and she sang the role of Laurie in the premiere of the opera!

Ms. Carlos grew up in the community of Walnut, Kansas, northwest of Girard. She was chosen especially for this role by Copland himself, who was delighted at the prospect of having the role portrayed by a young woman who had actually been raised in a midwestern rural environment just like the one in the opera, far away from the dangers and temptations represented by life in the big city. Following the initial performances of *The Tender Land*, other musical opportunities presented themselves for Ms. Carlos, but she struggled with the problem of trying to balance career and family. Devotion to her family carried the greater weight, and so her professional career was relatively short-lived.

For the PSU production, the role of Laurie had been double-cast, with Angela Shoup singing the Feb. 21 performance and Beth Freholm singing on Feb. 23. Following the performance, all three "Lauries" posed for a photograph in the lobby of McCray Hall, the young sopranos having being treated to stories from Ms. Carlos about the premiere performance and related experiences with Aaron Copland.

When news of this amazing set of circumstances was passed along to Vivian Perlis of Yale University, who co-authored with the composer the highly-acclaimed book *Copland: Since 1943*, she replied that she was well aware of Ms. Carlos' involvement in the original production, but, unfortunately, had not known of her whereabouts when writing the book. With this connection now established, she hopes to interview Ms. Carlos and complete that aspect of her research.

All of the above came as a delightful surprise and a marvelous enhancement to the opera project, and it left members of the McCray Hall family marvelling at how small the musical world really can be at times.

From left to right: Angela Shoup, Rosemary Carlos, and Beth Freholm

IN MEMORIAM

Richard G. Cook

Members of the university community were shocked and saddened to hear the news of the death of Prof. Richard Cook on April 24, 1992, from complications following heart surgery. Prof. Cook taught at Pittsburg State for 26 years, providing instruction in the areas of composition, upper-level theory, applied brass, and guitar. He was also the director of the electronic music studio and offered courses in electronic music that attracted both majors and non-majors.

Prof. Cook was born in Dallas, Texas, and graduated from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth with a BM in music education.

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and an MM in composition. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957, and during this time played trumpet with the 69th Division Band and the 7th Army Symphony Orchestra in Europe. For the next several years, he taught music and social studies in the Fort Worth public schools, then, in 1961, began a teaching position at the University of Texas, Arlington. His doctoral studies in composition were under Samuel Adler at North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas). He joined the Pittsburg faculty in the year 1966.

The awarding of a Rockefeller Foundation grant in 1965 facilitated the performance of his Concertino for Orchestra by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. A later revision of this work became the second movement of his Symphony in Three Movements. This major work, completed during a 1983 sabbatical leave, was premiered by the Southeast Kansas Symphony during its 1984 season. There were many other local performances of his works over the years as well, some of which involved members of his immediate family; his wife, Carolyn, a soprano; his daughter, Alice, a violinist; and his son, Carl, a violist.

A memorial service for Prof. Cook was held in Timmons Chapel on April 28. Included in the service was a tape recording of one of his songs, Animals (text by Ogden Nash), sung by Mrs. Cook, as well as several examples of his favorite pieces drawn from the classical and jazz repertoire.

IN MEMORIAM
Eva Jessye

Dr. Eva Jessye, artist-in-residence at Pittsburg State University from 1978-1983, died at her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan on February 21, 1992. She was 97 years old.

A native of Coffeyville, Kansas, she attended Langston University in Oklahoma, an institution that would later grant her an honorary doctorate. In 1920, she became director of the music department of Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland. Six years later, she joined the Dixie Jubilee Singers in New York City, a group that would later come to be known as the Eva Jessye Choir. This ensemble appeared in Hallelujah, the first black musical motion picture; in Virgil Thomson’s Four Saints in Three Acts; and in the original production of Porgy and Bess, for which Dr. Jessye served as chorale director. Her group also sang during Dr. Martin Luther King’s 1963 civil rights march on Washington, D.C.

Largely through the efforts of Gene DeGuson, Curator of Special Collections at the Axe Library and University Archivist, Dr.

Jessye was invited to Pittsburg in 1978. Her work, Paradise Lost and Regained, was presented as part of PSU’s 75th anniversary celebration, and annual programs under her direction took place in McCray Hall until her retirement in 1983.

Archival materials documenting the long and distinguished career of this remarkable woman are housed in collections at both Pittsburg State University and the University of Michigan.

Faculty Briefs

Paul Carlson, professor, spent the first two weeks of August coaching chamber music at Hengrave Hall near Bury St. Edmund, England. Students at this event, many of whom are preparing for international violin competitions, come from all over the world for two weeks of intense study under Yfrah Neaman, head of advanced solo studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Dr. Carlson joined the participants in a performance of works by Ernest Bloch and John McCabe.

Karen Dannessa, assistant professor, toured during April as a member of the Tallahassee Reed Trio. The group made a southern trip this year, with concerts at the University of Alabama, the University of Georgia, and Georgia State University. In June, she attended and assisted in organizing the 14th annual Thomas Stacy English Horn Seminar held in Rome, Georgia.

Paul Huybrechts, assistant professor, sang the role of “Dandini” in Rossini’s La Cenerentola with Opera Southwest, Albuquerque, during March. He was also invited, during the Fall ‘91 semester, to serve as guest lecturer at Louisiana State University.

Robert Kehele, associate professor, was on the faculty of the Music Festival of Arkansas again this June. He was featured as trombone soloist in Darius Milhaud’s Concertino d’Hiver on the festival’s June 18 concert. Other recent performances include his participation as a member of the Kansas invitational trombone ensemble at the Midwest Trombone Symposium at the University of Oklahoma.

Katherine Kelton, assistant professor, completed requirements toward her doctoral degree this spring and was awarded the degree at the University of Texas-Austin in May. The subject of her research has been the music of American composer, Amy Beach, and her expertise in this area has resulted in several important invitations to lecture on the topic. She spent much of the summer touring with the Desert Chorale, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Susan Marchant, associate professor, directed the Chancel Choir of Pittsburg’s First United Methodist Church at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, held in Louisville during May. The group performed as the featured choir in concerts and worship services on May 14, and Marchant served as organist for the services as well.

Joyce Medford, lecturer, has had one of her busiest summers ever as clinician and workshop director. Music education workshops at PSU, both Offf-oriented and otherwise, witnessed record enrollments. Ms. Medford was also invited to lead workshops in music-teaching-effectiveness at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, June 29-July 2.

Kathryn Parke, lecturer, sang the role of “Serpina” in Pergolesi’s La Serva Padrona in Kansas City during May, with Chicago-based baritone, Andrew Schultze, and members of the Early Music Consort. She continued her active involvement with this specialized repertoire at the Vancouver Early Music Festival, held at the University of British Columbia during July.

James Tapia, assistant professor, has made a number of appearances as guest conductor at events and festivals during recent months. Included among these were the University of Texas-Austin Conductors’ Symposium in June, and the 75th anniversary celebration at Interlochen in July.

Enrollment Update ‘92-‘93

Recruitment efforts in the Department of Music have proven to be highly effective, the result being one of the largest entering classes of music majors in the history of the institution. Special thanks are extended to PSU alumni and friends who have been helping by regularly supplying information about prospective music students, both majors and non-majors.

One of the most pressing and constant needs of the department, as it attracts talented new students, is continued funding for music scholarships. Alumni and friends are urged to contribute in this important way as well. Donations may be made to the General Music Scholarship Fund or may be directed toward any one of the more specific, named scholarships tied to individual disciplines (i.e., Laing, Schott, Thuememann, others). For additional information, contact the Department of Music (316/235-4466).
Calendar of Events

August
20 Enrollment
21 Enrollment
24 Classes begin

September
12 Fall Frolic for strings, all day
13 Faculty Recital, Carol Hoyt and Steven Edmund, duo pianists, 3 pm
18 Suzuki strings, 7 pm
22 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Lieurance Woodwind Quintet, 8 pm
27 Faculty Recital, Robert Kehle, trombone, 3 pm
29 Graduate Recital, Susan Laushman, piano

October
1 Jazz Ensemble
4 *Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3 pm
10 Homecoming
13 *Benefit Concert for the Stilwell Hotel, 8 pm
15 PSU Chamber Winds, 8 pm
17 Workshop for handbell directors, all day
20 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Quink (vocal ensemble), 8 pm
27 Student/Faculty String Quintet, 8 pm

November
1 *Centennial Choir with the Early Music Consort, 3 pm
10 Collegium Musicum, 8 pm
13 *Benefit Concert for the Stilwell Hotel, 8 pm
15 *Southeast Kansas Symphony, Memorial Auditorium, 3 pm
17 *Solo & Chamber Music Series: Eric Grossman, violin, 8 pm
19 Music Scholarship Audition Day, all day
19 Jazz Ensemble, 8 pm
22 University Choirs, 3 pm

December
2 Timmons Chapel Christmas concert, Timmons Chapel, 8 pm
3 PSU Chamber Winds, 8 pm
4 Timmons Chapel Christmas concert, Timmons Chapel, 8 pm
5 KMEA District II Mini-Convention, Memorial Auditorium, First United Methodist Church, and McCray Hall, all day

January
11 Enrollment
13 Classes begin

*Tickets required. For further information, contact the PSU Department of Music (316/235-4466).

All events take place in McCray Recital Hall unless noted otherwise. Please consult local news media for any changes in the above information and/or for additions to the calendar.

Taylor Appointed To Music Faculty

The Department of Music is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Taylor to its faculty. Mr. Taylor will teach courses in the theory/composition areas as well as applied horn.

Born in Kentucky and raised in southern Illinois, Mr. Taylor attended Northwestern University, where he earned a BM degree in composition in 1987. Graduate study has been at Cornell University, where he completed an MFA degree in composition in 1990 and is in the final stages of work toward a DMA degree in composition. While principally a composer, he has maintained a high level of performance skills (horn and piano) and has been a serious student of conducting. His choice of academic institutions has, of course, yielded him a most impressive list of musical mentors, further enhanced by additional study at places such as Aspen and Fontainebleau. Among his teachers, one finds the names of Karel Husa, Jacob Druckman, Mel Powell, Betsy Jolas, and John Pajnter, to name only a few.

His work as a composer has already been recognized in a number of important ways, including grants and commissions from ASCAP, the American String Teachers Association, and Meet the Composer. He was awarded the Prix des Amis du Conservatoire Américain de Fontainebleau in 1989.

Mr. Taylor leaves a teaching position at Syracuse University in order to join the PSU faculty this fall.

ALUMNI NEWS

Can you help us?

In an attempt to update our records, we are searching for information about alumni with whom we have lost touch. Included in the list below are alumni from the '30s and '50s who fall into this category. If you have any information whatsoever about these persons, would you please take a moment to report back to us on the attached update form? Thank you!

Betty R. (Henshaw) Fass, BM '57
Conrad R. Faulk, BME '53
Ruth A. (Hidy) Gunderson, BME '56
Walter E. Gunderson, BME '57
Clinton D. Land, BME '58
Gerald T. Landon, BM '56
Frank E. Moses, BME '53
Karl U. Rodnick, BSED '38
Carl H. Scheckman, BME '53
Edward L. Steil, BME '50
Patricia A. (Wolfe) Stephenson, BME '57
Wanda J. (Carline) Tucker, BME '58
Elizabeth J. (Ward) VanRheen, BM '50

William Browning (BM '47) has sent word of his spring '92 recitals and/or master classes: Notre Dame University; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; and Keimyung-Dong University, Taegu, Korea. This fall he will have a return engagement at Notre Dame and will also appear at the Phillips Art Gallery in Washington.

Michael Burton (MM '80) lives in Dallas, where he is a member of The Turtle Creek Chorale, a men's chorus that has sung for a number of dignitaries, including Texas Governor Ann Richards, President Bush, and Queen Elizabeth. With several award-winning compact discs to its credit, the group looks forward to a Carnegie Hall concert this year and entry in the International Competition for Men's Choruses in Austria.

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Kathrine Collins (BM '91) was married to Mark Hall in Pittsburg on August 8.

Ina (Zanchelli) Davenport (att. '50s) is currently residing in Morro Bay, CA, where she is involved with an office machine business that covers San Luis Obispo County. She enjoys playing piano in chamber music and has taken note of the presence of Professor Emeritus Mary Elliott James on the central coast of California.

Maxine Dick (BS '35) was widowed recently after 52 years of marriage. She keeps busy with various volunteer jobs as well as church activities and bridge playing.

Diana Doyle (BME '92) spent the summer on the staff of the Black Gold Corps in Tulsa. She was married on August 22 and then began a new job on the music staff of the Dodge City schools.

Barbara Dunkin (BME '92) was married to James Caldwell in Joplin, Missouri on August 15.

David Evitts (BME '65) has been singing with opera companies all over the world this past year, taking roles in Die Meistersinger in Nice, France; in Handel's Agrippina in Washington, D.C.; in The Barber of Seville in Cleveland; and, most recently, in Rossini's The Turk in Italy in St. Louis.

Gary Green (BME '74) spent some time in Oregon this past spring, performing a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical revue that he had arranged and directed.

Nancy (Thompson) Jones (MS '62) has been selected at Central Methodist College for the Board of Curators' Faculty Scholar Award. The award is based on individual proposals for enrichment and professional renewal of the teaching faculty. Nancy will travel to New Zealand, gathering information and sharing knowledge with voice teachers who are members of the New Zealand Association of Teachers of Singing. She will also visit the campuses of Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Canterbury at Christchurch, and the University of Auckland. Nancy sings her 23rd season with the Kansas City Lyric Opera this year. At Central Methodist, she teaches vocal music and humanities, and is director of the opera workshop.

Janice (Sellers) Malan (BME '73, MM '91) writes that her book of canons for young string players, titled "Follow the Leader," has been placed in the new catalog of Shar Products, a firm with international distribution. This pedagogical project served as Janice's graduate thesis at PSU and was guided by her advisor, the late Prof. Richard Cook.

Marilynn O'Shields (BME '78, MM '86) has accepted a position as band director at the Coffeyville, KS High School.

David Smith (MS '90) began this past January as instructor of vocal music at Highland Community College in Kansas. In this position, David directs four ensembles and teaches applied voice as well as music appreciation.

Patrick (MM '89) and Michelle (BME '86) Sweeten are living in Alameda, California. Pat joined the U.S. Navy in 1991 and has been assigned to the San Francisco area, where he plays lead trombone in the jazz show band, tenor trombone in the brass quintet, and tenor and bass trombone in the ceremonial band. He also conducts and is on the arranging staff of Navy Band SFO.

Michelle continues to play violin and viola, and she hopes to begin a private teaching studio soon. Pat and Michelle are the proud parents of two-year-old identical twins, Joshua and Zachary.

Steve (MM '89) and Andrea (Baker) Wilkerson (MM '91) are thriving in their teaching and performance careers in Covina, California. They are both affiliated with Mt. San Antonio College, Steve as director of instrumental music, and Andrea as choral director and theory instructor. They appear regularly with a number of professional ensembles in the Los Angeles area, and most recently they brought their own group to Joplin, Missouri for a performance. To round out their activities, they contribute regularly to the musical life of their church, First Presbyterian of Covina, and try their best to keep up with their six-year-old son, Chance.